

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A wireless communications unit comprising:
2 a casing having a front face;
3 a display;
4 internal logic contained within the casing, the internal logic to perform a pickup
5 pause function; and
6 a keypad having a button configured to signal the internal logic to initiate the
7 pickup pause function to (i) automatically answer an incoming call and (ii) playback a
8 message that indicates an intended recipient is temporarily unavailable to answer the
9 incoming call prior to or concurrent with producing an event to notify the recipient of the
10 incoming call.
- 1 2. The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the keypad further
2 includes a button that, when depressed, causes the internal logic to suspend playback of the
3 message and establish an audio channel adapted for transmission of audio from the unit.
- 1 3. The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the event is a warning
2 perceivable only by the recipient.
- 1 4. The wireless communication unit of claim 3, wherein the event is an
2 activation of a vibration device contained within the casing.
- 1 5. The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the internal logic
2 further initiates the pickup pause function for generating an alphanumeric message for
3 output to a caller.
- 1 6. The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the playback of the
2 message indicates an estimated amount of time delay needed before the recipient can
3 accept the incoming call, the amount of time delay is programmed by the user through
4 depression of buttons on the keypad.

1 7. The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the internal logic
2 includes a processing unit coupled to a memory and a transceiver.

1 8. A method comprising:
2 enabling a pickup pause functionality performed by internal logic within a wireless
3 communication unit, the pickup pause functionality includes answering an incoming call
4 by a caller with a recorded message audible only to the caller to indicate that a recipient is
5 temporarily unavailable and generating a silent warning perceivable by the recipient
6 concurrently with or after playback of the recorded message; and
7 completing an audio channel to the wireless communication unit to allow the
8 recipient to talk with the caller and suspending playback of the recorded message once the
9 recipient is available to answer the incoming call.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein enabling of the pickup pause functionality
2 further includes setting the wireless communication unit to answer the incoming call with
3 the recorded message automatically without any activity by the recipient.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the enabling of the pickup pause
2 functionality further includes programming an estimated amount of time for inclusion into
3 the recorded message, the estimated amount of time being represented in accordance with a
4 selected time interval.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the selected time interval is a selected
2 number of seconds.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein generating the silent warning includes
2 activating a device of the wireless communication unit to cause the wireless
3 communication unit to vibrate.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein prior to suspending playback of the
2 recorded message, the method further comprises depressing buttons of a keypad of the
3 wireless communication unit by the holder to program a duration of time delay, which is
4 indicated through a message only audible to the caller, that is needed for the holder to
5 answer the incoming call.

1 18. A software embodied in internal memory of a wireless communication unit
2 and executable by a processing unit, comprising:
3 a first software module to enable a pickup pause function including answering an
4 incoming call with a message audible to indicate that a recipient is temporarily unavailable
5 to answer the incoming call; and
6 a second software module to activate a device within the wireless communication
7 unit for warning the recipient of the incoming call.

1 19. The software of claim 18 further comprising a third software module to
2 establish an audio channel between the wireless communication unit and a unit
3 transmitting the incoming call.

1 20. The software of claim 18 further comprising a third software module to
2 suspend iterative playback of the message once the recipient is available to answer the
3 incoming call.

1 21. The software of claim 18, wherein the first and second software modules
2 are loaded in the internal memory of a cellular phone operating as the wireless
3 communication unit.